

Northern Territory (NT) comprises a land area of 1,346,200 square kilometres. It is the third largest land mass area after Western Australia and Queensland, however the NT has the smallest population per km² of all States and Territories.

Darwin is the capital city with an estimated population of 69,301. The northern region of the NT is referred to as the Top End and has two official seasons. The ‘Wet’ occurs between October and April and has high humidity and heavy monsoonal rainfall, while the ‘Dry’ season runs from May to September.

In contrast the central and southern regions of the NT display vastly different landscape, flora and fauna and climatic conditions. Generally the southern region is relatively dry for most of the year and experiences cooler winters and hot dry summers. Alice Springs is the largest regional population centre outside Darwin.

Insert map of Northern Territory

DELETE KEYLINE

AGRICULTURE AND FISHING

Agriculture		1995–96	1996–97
Establishments	no.	355	357
Field crops and horticulture	\$m	40.6	47.9
Cattle and livestock products	\$m	149.5	168.9
Live cattle and buffalo exports	no.	156 667	268 371
Fishing			
Estimated value of catch			
Barramundi	\$m	2.9	2.8
Snapper	\$m	3.6	2.7
Prawns	\$m	35.9	40.3
<i>Total of all species</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>98.9</i>	<i>118.4</i>

BUILDING

Approvals		1996–97	1997–98
New houses	no.	1 112	1 254
New other residential buildings	no.	875	964
<i>Total building</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>474.4</i>	<i>548.8</i>
Completions			
New houses	no.	948	1 139
New other residential buildings	no.	623	859
<i>Total building</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>501.4</i>	<i>460.4</i>

CLIMATE

		Darwin	Alice Springs
Average annual rainfall	mm	1 683	275
Average annual temperature			
minimum	°C	23.2	13.2
maximum	°C	31.9	28.6
Average annual humidity			
9.00 a.m.	%	73	42
3.00 p.m.	%	54	23
Highest daily rainfall record: 1963, 544.6 mm, Roper River Station			
Highest maximum temperature recorded: 1960, 48.3 °C, Finke			
Lowest minimum temperature recorded: 1976, –7.5 °C, Alice Springs			

DEMOGRAPHY

Estimated resident population		1997	1998p
Darwin City	no.	69 783	69 301
Palmerston	no.	14 808	17 275
Darwin Rural Areas	no.	16 402	17 016
Nhulunbuy	no.	3 752	3 719
Katherine	no.	9 684	9 856
Tennant Creek	no.	3 809	3 862
Alice Springs	no.	25 385	25 522
Northern Territory	no.	186 907	189 991
Indigenous population (Census counts)		1991	1996
Darwin Statistical Division	no.	6 179	7 368
Katherine	no.	1 478	1 623
Tenant Creek	no.	928	1 517
Alice Springs	no.	3 708	3 911
Northern Territory	no.	39 910	46 277
Vital statistics		1996	1997
Births	no.	3 562	3 588
Rate per 1,000 population		20.0	19.2
Deaths	no.	758	891
Rate per 1,000 population		4.3	4.8
Marriages	no.	787	786
Rate per 1,000 population		4.3	4.2
Divorces granted	no.	486	416
Rate per 1,000 population		2.7	2.2

EDUCATION

		1997	1998
Schools	no.	173	179
Teaching staff	no.	2 640	2 720
Students	no.	36 466	36 705

LABOUR

Labour Force (trend estimates)		Dec 1997	Dec 1998
Employed persons	'000	87.5	93.4
Unemployed persons	'000	4.1	3.8
Unemployment rate	%	4.4	3.9
Participation rate	%	70.3	72.3
Average weekly earnings		Aug 1997	Aug 1998
All males total earnings	\$	671.30	681.10
All females total earnings	\$	506.70	526.30
All employees total earnings	\$	592.30	607.20

MANUFACTURING

		1995–96	1996–97
Persons employed	'000	3.5	3.4
Wages and salaries	\$m	101.3	114.9
Turnover	\$m	900.1	915.6

MINING AND ENERGY

		1995–96	1996–97
Establishments	no.	31	27
Persons employed	no.	1 810	1 944
Wages and salaries	\$m	122	124
Turnover	\$m	1 280	1 465
Value of minerals produced	\$m	1 247	1 306
Mineral exploration expenditure		1996–97	1997–98
Gold	\$m	53.1	45.0
Total mineral exploration	\$m	88.9	75.9

OVERSEAS TRADE

Value of NT imports from		1997	1998
Brunei	\$'000	4	8
Indonesia	\$'000	5 616	13 165
Malaysia	\$'000	5 262	7 835
Philippines	\$'000	273	835
All countries	\$'000	519 053	655 159

Value of NT exports to			
Brunei	\$'000	8 079	9 835
Indonesia	\$'000	107 664	67 679
Malaysia	\$'000	9 822	6 531
Philippines	\$'000	72 408	51 946
All countries	\$'000	1 293 094	1 201 799

PRICES—DARWIN

		1996–97	1997–98
Consumer Price Index (Base: 1989–90 = 100.0)		121.6	121.3
Established House Price Index (Base: 1989–90 = 100.0)		196.9	198.9
Average Retail Prices—Darwin (cents)		Sep qtr 1997	Sep qtr 1998
Milk, carton	1 litre	121	122
Bread, white loaf, sliced	680 gms	196	210
Rump steak	1 kg	1 218	1 209
Potatoes	1 kg	132	108
Eggs—dozen	55 gms	310	298
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500 gms	191	208
Coffee, instant	150 gms	610	615
Draught beer, full strength	285 ml	230	231
Petrol, unleaded	1 litre	78.9	77.2

PUBLIC FINANCE

Territory Government		1997-98p	1998-99(est.)
Current and capital outlays	\$m	1 638	1 827
Total revenue	\$m	1 712	1 743
Grants received	\$m	1 311	1 341

TOURISM

Tourist accommodation		Sep qtr 1997	Sep qtr 1998
Guest arrivals			
Licensed hotels with facilities	'000	106.1	101.6
Motels and guest houses	'000	180.7	192.0
Serviced apartments	'000	n.a.	48.3
Takings from accommodation			
Licensed hotels with facilities	\$'000	14 842	16 155
Motels and guest houses	\$'000	16 826	18 216
Serviced apartments	\$'000	7 275	8 061
Visitors(a)		1996-97	1997-98
Visitor numbers	'000	1 299	1 161
Domestic	'000	931	788
International	'000	369	372
Visitor nights	'000	6 519	6 431
Visitor expenditure	\$m	716	702

(a) Visitor data is sourced from Northern Territory Tourist Commission

TRANSPORT

		1996-97	1997-98
New motor vehicles registered during year	no.	7 715	8 694
New motor cycles registered during year	no.	453	428

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

Annual periods shown as, for example, 1996 refers to the year ended 31 December 1996; those shown as, for example 1996-97 refer to the year ended June 1997. Values are shown in Australian dollars (\$) unless another currency is specified. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

°C	— degrees Celsius	n.a.	— not available
\$m	— dollar millions	no.	— number
kg	— kilograms	p	— preliminary data
kms	— kilometres	qtr	— quarter
ml	— millilitres	'000	— thousand
mm	— millimetres		

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074.

For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index, call 1900 986 400. These calls cost 75c per minute.

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Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics
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Recommended retail price: \$1.10



2130470001998

ISSN 0815-3809